Unofficial Draft Copy

68th Legislature LC 0788

1	JOINT RESOLUTION NO		
2	INTRODUCED BY		
3	(Primary Sponsor)		
4	A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF		
5	MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF VITICULTURE AND WINE DISTRIBUTION AND		
6	LICENSING REGULATION; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTE		
7	TO THE 69TH LEGISLATURE.		
8			
9	WHEREAS, American consumption of wine has increased from 1.95 gallons for each resident in 1998		
10	to 2.82 gallons for each resident in 2013, according to the Agricultural Marketing Resource Center; and		
11	WHEREAS, on a per-acre basis, vineyard returns greatly exceed returns from conventional crops,		
12	providing tremendous potential for value-added marketing of wine, grapes, and their byproducts at the farm		
13	level and increasing the farmer's share of the consumer's dollar, according to the University of Arkansas' Food		
14	Science Department; and		
15	WHEREAS, the expansion of Montana's vineyards may provide potential for increasing value-added		
16	agricultural products; and		
17	WHEREAS, Montana does not yet have a federally designated American Viticultural Area, a		
18	designation that may enhance the viability of Montana wines; and		
19	WHEREAS, the Wine Distribution Act provides a regulatory framework for winemaking in the state but		
20	could bear some scrutiny as part of a legislative review of regulatory constraints and opportunities for Montana		
21	farmers; and		
22	WHEREAS, the Montana Department of Agriculture has authority over the agricultural aspect of		
23	vineyards, but the Montana Department of Revenue has authority over the distribution and sale of wine in the		
24	state.		
25			
26	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF		
27	THE STATE OF MONTANA:		
28	That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee or statutory		



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1	committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to study the issues of		
2	production and regulation of wine, winemaking, grape-growing, and the use of byproducts. The study shall		
3	examine:		
4	(1) wine production, including processes of harvesting, crushing, fermentation, cl	arification,	
5	packaging, labeling, and storage;		
6	(2) the marketing of wine, including demographics, wine tourism, and other const	ımer behavior;	
7	(3) regulatory requirements and constraints as provided in Title 16 and by the Un	ited States	
8	department of the treasury; and		
9	(4) additional licensing opportunities for wine production, manufacturing, and sale	es.	
10	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study include representatives of the Department of Agriculture		
11	Department of Commerce, Department of Revenue, and appropriate stakeholders, including s	tate or local	
12	groups that work on the topic of viticulture.		
13	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be		
14	presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.		
15	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review		
16	requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2024.		
17	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,		
18	comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 69th Legislature.		
19	- END -		



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